

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. In the first Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 7-9 under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,983,274 to *Hyder, et al* (hereinafter referred to simply as "*Hyder*"), and rejected claims 5 and 6 under Section 103(a) as being anticipated by *Hyder*.

Section 103 Rejection. As shown in Exhibit A hereto, the present application is assigned to Microsoft Corporation of Redmond Washington. As shown in Exhibit B hereto, *Hyder* is also assigned to Microsoft Corporation, and has been since May 21, 1997. Thus, the subject matter of the claimed invention and the subject matter of *Hyder* were commonly owned at the time the claimed invention was made.

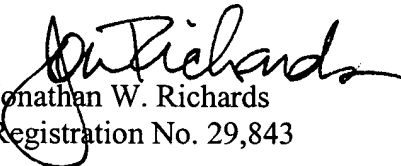
The present application, having been filed as a continued prosecution application, receives the benefit of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), which specifies that a patent reference that otherwise qualifies as prior art under Section 102(e) does not preclude patentability of claims under Section 103(a) if the patent reference and the patent application that includes the claims were commonly owned at the time the claimed invention was made. In this case, the subject matter of *Hyder* and the subject matter of the claimed invention were commonly owned by Microsoft Corporation at the time the claimed invention was made. Thus, *Hyder* does not represent a prior art reference that can be applied to reject the claims under Section 103(a). In view of the foregoing, the Section 103(a) rejection set forth in the Office Action of July 5, 2001 is rendered moot and, therefore, claims 5 and 6 are in condition for allowance.

Section 102(e) Rejection. By this paper, applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 7, and claims 10-13 have been added, to include the concept of separating connection control information from data and data control information and separately representing such information to the application through known application-level interfaces. Neither *Hyder* nor any of the other references of record (alone or in combination) teach or fairly suggest this feature of the present invention. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 and 7-13 are also in condition for allowance.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 5th day of October, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In the claims:

1. (Amended) A method for representing to an application the characteristics of an underlying connection-oriented device over [a] known application-level interfaces and allowing an application to take advantage of a connection-oriented I/O subsystem having an integrating component over the known application-level interfaces and without requiring the application programmer to program directly to the integrating component, the method comprising:

representing to an application over a first known application-level interface the connection control characteristics of [an] the underlying connection-oriented device;

representing to the application over a second known application-level interface the data and data control characteristics of the underlying connection-oriented device;

receiving at least one command in the known application-level interface format;
and

interacting with the integrating component of the connection-oriented I/O subsystem in order to represent the underlying connection-oriented device characteristics over [a] the known application-level interfaces and to execute received commands so that an application may take advantage of the connection-oriented I/O subsystem and use the connection-oriented device using the known application-level interfaces and without requiring the application programmer to program to a new interface.

7. (Amended) A computer program product for interacting with [a] known application-level interfaces and an integrating component of a connection-oriented I/O subsystem in order to represent the characteristics of an underlying connection-oriented device to an application and allow an application to take advantage of the connection-oriented I/O subsystem over the known application-level interfaces without requiring the application programmer to program to a new interface, said computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

computer-executable instructions carried on said computer-readable medium for performing the steps of:

representing the connection control characteristics of the underlying connection-oriented devices [and device characteristics] over a first known application level interface;

representing the data and data control characteristics of the underlying connection-oriented devices over a second known application level interface;

receiving abstract connection creation and control commands from an application over the known application-level interfaces; and

interacting with the integrating component to ascertain the underlying connection-oriented device and implement received connection creation and control commands.

10. (New) A method for representing to an application the characteristics of an underlying connection-oriented device over known application-level interfaces and allowing an application to take advantage of a connection-oriented I/O subsystem having an integrating component over the known application-level interfaces and without requiring the application programmer to program directly to the integrating component, the method comprising:

separating connection control characteristics from data and data control characteristics received from an underlying connection-oriented device;

representing to an application over a first known application-level interface the connection control characteristics of the underlying connection-oriented device;

representing to an application over a second known application-level interface the data and data control characteristics of the underlying connection-oriented device;

receiving at least one command in the known application-level interface format;
and

interacting with the integrating component of the connection-oriented I/O subsystem in order to represent the underlying connection-oriented device characteristics over the known application-level interfaces and to execute received commands so that an application may take advantage of the connection-oriented I/O subsystem and use the connection-oriented device using the known application-level interfaces and without requiring the application programmer to program to a new interface.

11. (New) A method as recited in claim 10 wherein the integrating component has a connection interface for making connections with underlying connection-oriented devices, and a data transport interface for interacting with a data transport component and the interacting with the integrating component comprises the steps of:

having data transport components interact with applications and the data transport interface;

sending, to the integrating component, instructions over the connection interface for directing data and data control information over a specified data transport component;
and

receiving, from the integrating component, an identifier that can be used by the application to access the data over the specified data transport component.

12. (New) A method as recited in claim 11 wherein the integrating component implements a connection manager interface that may support a connection manager component and the data transport components interact with the integrating component over the connection manager interface to effectively register their respective data types so that the redirection command received over the application-level interface specifying a data type comprises the steps of interacting over the connection manager interface of the integrating component in order to determine the correct data transport component based on data type.

13. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 10.